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Deben Rural District Council.



Annual Report OF THE Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1957



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The Chairman and Members,

The Rural District Council of Deben.

Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my Annual Report for the year 1957 in accordance with the statutory requirements.

The plan of the report follows more or less on the same lines as in previous years, but I have added a new item in the shape of some notes on Radiation Hazards. This is a subject which I have been studying for a number of years and is, in my opinion, one of the health problems which will face us in the future. I feel that these notes may help in getting this extremely complicated and highly technical subject into a little better focus. I feel therefore, that no excuse is required for introducing this innovation.

I would like to thank the Council and the Officers for their assistance during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C.H. IRIE.

Medical Officer of Health.

DEBEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health.

C.H. IIRIE, T.D.,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector.

A.F. WARRANDER,
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E.

Additional Public Health Inspectors.

R.T.W. BEDFORD,
C.R.S.I.

H.P. SIMCO,
A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

STATISTICS

GENERAL

Population (Registrar General's Estimate for Mid. 1957)	29,620
Area of District in acres	109,391
Density of population. Persons per acre	(Corrected) 3.6
Number of inhabited houses at 31.12.57	8,828
Average number of persons per house	3.3
Rateable Value of District	£252,245
Sum represented by Penny Rate - Estimated 1957/58	£900
Actual "	£1,050

VITAL STATISTICS

Summary covering five years.

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Population	28,340	28,430	29,200	29,520	29,620
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	15.03	16.32	13.56	15.54	15.02
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.40	0.33
General Death Rate per 1,000 population	11.9	13.1	13.3	14.6	13.5
Infantile Death Rate (under 1 year) per 1,000 live births	2.3	10.7	15.1	21.79	13.4

It will be observed that the population is still increasing but the rate of increase is now much slower than it was a few years ago.

The Birth and Death rates are very similar to those of the previous few years and compare well with other parts of the country.

The causes of death as will be seen from the Table are very comparable with the previous year. The malignant diseases in this district at least show no signs of the increase which is stated to be found in towns.

The deaths caused by violence, including accidents still remains steady and it will be noted that the number of suicides has increased over the previous year.

POPULATION

Registrar General's mid-year estimates over 10 years:

1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
25130	26140	27030	27850	27950	28340	28430	29200	29520	29620

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	216	199	415
Illegitimate	17	13	30

445

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population 15.02
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population with comparability factor 17.87
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population England and Wales 16.1

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population for 10 years:

1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
16.9	16.1	15.5	15.1	13.5	15.03	16.32	13.56	15.54	15.02

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	6	8
Illegitimate	1	1	2

10

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total Live Births 22.47
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births for England and
Wales .. 22.4
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population ... 0.33

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population for 10 years:

1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
0.19	0.05	0.14	0.18	0.32	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.40	0.33

DEATHS (ALL CAUSES)

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
205	195	400

Death Rate 13.5 per 1,000 population - with comparability factor 8.2
Death Rate for England and Wales 11.5

DEATHS (ALL CAUSES) Continued.

Death Rate per 1,000 population for 10 years:

1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
10.06	11.32	12.6	11.5	11.4	11.9	13.1	13.3	14.6	13.5

Deaths of infants under 1 year

Number of Deaths over a period of 5 years:					
	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
	M.F.	M.F.	M.F.	M.F.	M.F.
Legitimate	1 -	5 5	2 4	5 4	5 1
Illegitimate	- -	- -	- -	- 1	- -
Total:	1 -	5-5	2-4	5-5	5-1

Infantile Death Rate 1957

All infants per 1,000 live births..... 13.4
 All infants per 1,000 live births England and Wales.... 23.0
 Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births..... 14.4

Causes of death in infants under 1 year

	1 - 7 days	1 wk. - 1 mth.	1 - 6 mnths.
Asphyxia	2	1	-
Pneumonia	-	-	2
Atelectasis	1	-	-
Total:	3	1	2

Situation where death took place:-

Hospital: 4

Home: 2

Causes of Death

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
1. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	5	1	6	2
2. Other forms of tuberculosis	1	-	1	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-	2
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm of stomach	2	3	5	9
11. Malignant neoplasm of lung and bronchus	1	1	2	10
12. Malignant neoplasm of breast	-	7	7	12
13. Malignant neoplasm of uterus	-	1	1	2
14. Other forms of malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	17	15	32	34
15. Leukaemia and aleukaemia	1	-	1	-
16. Diabetes	-	4	4	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	29	42	48
18. Coronary disease, angina	40	19	59	50
19/20 Heart diseases	58	59	117	116
21. Other diseases of circulatory system	9	17	26	22
22. Influenza	3	3	6	1
23. Pneumonia	8	6	14	21
24. Bronchitis	5	3	8	17
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-	2	6
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	3	3
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	1	3	3
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1	5
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-	3	4
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1	1	-
31. Congenital malformations	1	2	3	4
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	15	16	31	36
33. Motor vehicle accidents	5	-	5	5
34. All other accidents	5	2	7	15
35. Suicide	6	4	10	2
	<u>205</u>	<u>195</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>431</u>

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

The general picture of Notifiable Disease during 1957 followed much the same pattern as in previous years although the total was rather higher than it has been recently. This increase is attributable to the coincidence of peaks of both Measles and Whooping Cough in one year which together accounted for 690 out of 738 notifications.

For the third year in succession there were no cases of Poliomyelitis reported.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register fell during the year from 162 to 176. Deaths numbered 6 of which only 2 were registered as belonging to this District, the remainder being hospital cases from other Districts.

Monthly Notifications of Notifiable Disease

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Measles	44	163	128	118	6	1	1	1	-	-	10	1	473
Scarlet Fever	-	1	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	7
Whooping Cough	49	21	9	19	16	13	50	20	6	12	1	1	217
Pneumonia	2	4	4	10	1	1	1	-	1	2	2	-	28
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	4
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	6
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
													738

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

- (a) Total number of Outbreaks - 2
- (b) Total number of cases - 3
- (c) Number of deaths - Nil
- (d) Organisms or agents responsible - Staphylococcus aureus
Salmonella typhi-murium
- (e) Foods involved - Bath Chap

During the Summer two outbreaks of Food Poisoning occurred. Investigation revealed that one family had eaten a portion of a Bath Chap which had been kept in the pantry over a few days without refrigeration. Two adult members of the family were violently sick, resulting in the removal of one case to hospital where she remained under treatment for six days.

The second outbreak was of moderate severity and had no connection with the one reported above. No food samples were available and investigation revealed no apparent cause.

Notifiable Disease - Age Distribution

	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25 & over	Unknown	Total
Measles	3	55	95	262	35	4	14	5	473
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	4	2	-	-	-	7
Whooping Cough	10	33	41	105	13	3	11	-	217
Pneumonia	3	2	4	7	-	1	11	-	28
Enterperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	4
Dysentery	-	1	-	-	2	-	2	1	6
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3
									738

Totals for past five years

	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953
Measles	473	233	366	13	425
Scarlet Fever	7	9	9	33	72
Whooping Cough	217	31	29	56	92
Pneumonia	28	10	15	45	30
Erysipelas	-	5	3	4	10
Enterperal Pyrexia	4	14	1	4	5
Dysentery	6	9	25	1	1
Infective Jaundice	-	10	12	5	10
Food Poisoning	3	2	8	1	1
Staphylococcal Infection	-	1	1	-	1
Malaria	-	-	1	-	-
Poliovirus Infection	-	-	-	4	3
Totals	738	324	470	166	650

Notifiable Disease - Tuberculosis

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Number on Register at Jan. 1st 1957	71	61	19	31	182
Number notified during the year	11	7	2	2	22
Number restored to register after removal in a previous period	-	-	-	-	-
Number otherwise than by notification	1	3	-	1	5
Number removed from register during the year	16	9	4	4	33
Number remaining on 31st December, 1957	67	62	17	30	176

Analyses of Notifications

<u>Pulmonary</u>	0-1	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Over 65	Total
Male:	-	-	-	3	1	2	2	1	3	12
Female:	-	-	-	2	2	4	1	-	1	10
Total	-	-	-	5	3	6	3	1	4	22

<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	0-1	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Over 65	Total
Male:	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2
Female:	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	3
Total	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	-	-	5

Deaths during the year

Pulmonary

	0-1	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Over 65	Total
Male:	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	5
Female:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	4	6

Analyses of Non-Pulmonary Cases added to Register.

Cervical Glands	2
Spine	1
Left Thigh	1
Kidney	1
	<hr/>
	5
	<hr/>

Occupation of cases added to Register

	<u>Primary Notifications</u>	<u>Otherwise than by notification</u>
Housewife	8	3
Clerk	2	-
Lorry Driver	1	-
Baker	1	-
Builders Labourer	2	-
Civil Engineer (Rtd.)	1	-
Nursing Auxiliary	-	1
Roadman	1	-
Mechanic	1	-
School Caretaker	1	-
Male Nurse	-	1
Fitter (Rtd.)	1	-
Law Student	1	-
Builder	1	-
Unknown	1	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	22	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Reasons for Removal from Register

Recovered	15
Left District	9
Died - T.B.	2
Died - Other causes	7

HOUSING

Statistics for 1957

Number of inhabited houses in the District at 31.12.57	8,828
Average number of persons per house	3.3
During 1957 number of new houses completed by Local Authority	38
Total of post war Council Houses completed to 31.12.57	875
Private buildings completed during 1957	151
Number of Improvement Grants approved during year	96
Number on Waiting List for Council Houses at 31.12.57	284

Hutted Camps

<u>Camps</u>	<u>Approved for</u>	<u>Expires</u>	<u>Huts in use</u>
Trimley	10 years	1957	22
Ufford	10 years	1958	44

General Inspection

(a) Total number of houses inspected during the year for all purposes	156
(b) Total number of houses found to be unsatisfactory	151
(c) Number of houses still occupied for human habitation in respect of which demolition or clearance orders have been made.	18

Housing Repairs

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit as a result of informal action	84
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Clearance Areas

Number of dwellings houses demolished	-
---------------------------------------	---

Individual Houses

Number of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	14
Number of dwellings demolished as a result of Demolition Orders	9
Number of dwellings in respect of which or part of which Closing Orders were made (Section 12 Housing Act, 1936)	24
Number closed under Local Government (Misc. Provisions) Act, 1953	Nil

Housing

Although the great urgency of the early postwar years has largely abated, there still remains a very general need for housing accommodation. This is well illustrated by the fact that the list of applicants for Council houses has remained largely unaltered for the past few years. Building has apparently only just managed to keep pace with the fresh applications in any period with the result that the Waiting List has been more or less static around the 300 - 350 mark.

The needs of the older generation have received some attention and the small dwellings which have been erected for them have proved popular. I am convinced that these dwellings should not have any superfluous accommodation which only throws an extra strain and responsibility on an old person. There still seems to be a general need for this type of dwelling.

CARAVANS

Every year we see more and more caravans on the roads or harbouring in the more attractive and interesting parts of our rural countryside. The Trailer Caravan, originally almost exclusively an adjunct to holidays, has become in recent years a recognised all-the-year-round home for many, thereby raising very knotty problems of hygiene and administration.

As a holiday dwelling in the less rainy season of our year a caravan has many merits. It affords just the right balance between the hardships of camping and the comfort of a hotel, with the additional advantage of an infinitely variable environment. As a permanent home however the caravan is an entirely different proposition and even under the best conditions of siting, equipment and sanitation is little more than substandard housing.

The very factors which have been developed as assets in a holiday dwelling become handicaps in one of permanence. The lightness of build, the poor thermal insulation, the difficulties of heating and ventilation, the difficulties of water and sanitation and above all the confined living and storage space are all accentuated under adverse weather conditions.

Overcrowding is normal in a caravan and few if any are suitable for more than holiday accommodation for children.

I am convinced that only in exceptional circumstances should encouragement be given to those who propose to take up permanent residence in a caravan. It is conceded that a single person or a married couple, if active and in good health might well succeed in overcoming the handicaps of this type of existence, but in my opinion the presence of children rules it out.

When considering an application for permission to site a caravan for permanent use, I feel that each case should be assessed under the following headings:-

- (1) suitability of caravan for the job, (2) suitability of site,
- (3) availability of such amenities as would be expected in a permanent dwelling, (4) suitability of the family for this type of life.

In a caravan much has been sacrificed to gain mobility. To sacrifice this mobility is to lose its main asset.

MAINS WATER SUPPLY BY PARISHES

Parish	Direct to Houses	Estimated pop. served	By Stand- pipe.	Estimated pop. served
<u>Deben R.D.C. Waterworks.</u>				
Alderton	47	155	16	53
Bawdsey	17	56	18	59
Bealings Gt.	16	53	1	3
Bealings Lt.	38	125	1	3
Blaxhall	41	135	28	92
Boulge	3	10	10	33
Boyton	42	138	7	23
Bredfield	40	132	46	152
Bromeswell	22	72	17	56
Durgh	25	82	16	53
Butley	18	59	22	72
Campsea Ashe	42	138	27	89
Capel St. Andrew	3	10	11	36
Charsfield	48	158	36	119
Chillesford	1	3	7	23
Clopton	56	185	26	86
Cretingham	13	43	15	49
Culpho	2	7	3	10
Dallinghoo	34	112	14	46
Debach	14	46	12	46
Eyke	40	132	11	36
Gedgrave	2	7	-	-
Grundisburgh	168	554	79	261
Hasketon	68	224	22	73
Hollesley	50	165	32	106
Hoo	7	23	9	30
Kesgrave	711	2346	3	10
Letheringham	5	16	-	-
Martlesham	168	554	30	99
Melton	3	10	5	16
Monewden	7	23	11	36
Orford	120	396	26	86
Otley	77	254	78	257
Pettistree	22	72	10	33
Playford	13	43	6	20
Purdis Farm	94	310	1	3
Rendlesham	6	20	3	10
Rushmere	510	1683	23	76
Shottisham	18	59	13	43
Stabourne	38	125	5	16
Sutton	32	106	11	36
Swilland	20	66	20	66
Tuddenham	51	168	24	79
Tunstall	38	125	47	155
Ufford	141	465	30	99
Westerfield (part)	1	3	2	7
Wickham Market	300	990	79	261
Witnesham	104	343	48	158

Parishes served by undertakings other than Deben.

Parish	Direct to Houses	Estimated pop. served	By Stand- pipe	Estimated pop. served
<u>Ipswich C.B. Waterworks.</u>				

Foxhall (part)	7	23	--	--
Westerfield (part)	25	82	--	--

The Felixstowe and District Water Co.

Brightwell	2	7	--	--
Bucklesham	38	125	--	--
Falkenham	43	146	--	--
Foxhall (part)	18	59	--	--
Hemley	4	13	1	3
Winton	137	452	--	--
Levington	23	76	12	40
Nacton	21	69	2	7
Perbourn	97	320	--	--
Trimley St. Mary	283	934	--	--
Trimley St. Martin	294	970	--	--
Waldringfield	71	234	11	36

Woodbridge Waterworks

Melton	412	1360	--	--
--------	-----	------	----	----

Water sampling in 1957Number of Samples1. (a) Main supplies

Deben R.D. Eastern Area	(Pettistree)	1
S.W. Area	(Tuddenham Springs)	1
N. Regional "	(Tuddenham Bore)	--
Woodbridge U.D.		--
Ipswich C.B.		--
Felixstowe U.D.		--
		<u>2</u>

(b) Private Supplies examined
Repeat samples

71
14
85

Results of analyses

1. (a) Samples from Mains Supplies	- Satisfactory	2
ditto	- Unsatisfactory	--
Samples from Private Supplies	- Satisfactory	33
ditto	- Unsatisfactory	52
		<u>87</u>

WATER SUPPLY - Continued

Nitrate and Bacteriological Examinations

Total number of supplies sampled	-	42
Satisfactory Bacteriologically and Nitrate	-	13 (30.95%)
Unsatisfactory	-	7 (16.67%)
" " only	-	16 (38.09%)
" Nitrate only	-	6 (14.29%)

Chemical Analysis

A sample of water taken from Reservoir supplied by springs at Tuddenham Pumping Station.

Results of Chemical Analysis in Parts per Million.

Ammoniacal nitrogen:	0.04	Hardness as CaCO_3 :	
Albuminoid nitrogen:	0.11	Total	380
Nitrate nitrogen:	6	Carbonate (Temporary)	265
Nitrite nitrogen:	Nil	Non-Carbonate (permanent)	115
Chlorine as chlorides:	24	Alkalinity as CaCO_3	265
Oxygen absorbed (4hr., 27°)	0.55	Free Carbon dioxide	45.5
		Total solids (at 180°C)	550
		Iron (total)	Nil
		Metals in solution - other than iron	Nil

Opinion

The organic quality of this water is reasonably good and the chemical analysis as a whole does not suggest that serious pollution is occurring. The bacteriological findings on the sample submitted later were very satisfactory and on this evidence we are of opinion that this water is free from pollution. The odour and taste of the water were slightly unpleasant, but this may be due to the fact that the water is derived from springs and may have derived its odour and taste from the mineral strata with which it has been in contact.

The water is hard, the total hardness approximating to 27° Clark. The reaction is on the alkaline side of neutrality, as is desirable in such a water, and its salinity is low. Its clarity and general appearance are satisfactory and in our opinion this water is fit for drinking purposes.

The water supply of the District maintained its standards of quality and quantity, and no contamination of the piped water supply was found.

During the year 309 connections were made to houses, 19 properties were served by standpipes and 13 properties received a metered supply.

Refuse Removal and Disposal

This service which is provided by the Council, has operated for a number of years for the most part smoothly and without comment, but at times not without difficulties and criticism.

In a widely scattered Rural District the collection and disposal of household refuse present problems at once peculiar to itself and difficult in solution. Indeed, such is the expense and the general difficulty of an undertaking, that it has been stated by some to be unjustifiable and it is held by many that a lower standard of service is acceptable.

In my view the expense of such a service is entirely justified and the higher the quality of the service the more is the justification. It has been common knowledge for many years that accumulations of refuse whether in town or country attract pests of all types and form an ideal breeding ground for disease, and it may well be that the observed higher incidence of such diseases as poliomyelitis in rural areas is not unconnected with this fact.

It is unavoidable under modern conditions that a certain amount of organic matter must appear in the household refuse and this soon starts to decompose, especially in warm weather. The longer it stands the greater the amount of decomposition and with it the generation of offensive smells which are so attractive to flies and rats.

From this it is obvious that the more frequently that household refuse can be collected and removed to a proper disposal site the less will be the danger to the health of the community. Unfortunately the more frequent the collections, the bigger is the staff required, more vehicles are needed and the greater is the financial outlay involved.

In my opinion collections at monthly or longer intervals are far from satisfactory even in the more isolated parishes and it should be the ultimate aim to gradually reduce the interval between collections to a maximum period of at the most 2 weeks in any parish. It is realised that this will be more expensive but careful thought in organisation might offset much of this and the result would be a service which is effective throughout the whole district. I feel that this is a job which is worth doing well.

While the disposal methods on tips are quite satisfactory it is felt that with the proposed addition of a Bulldozer to the armamentarium of the Council, it might be possible to fill and cover daily and so avoid attracting vermin. Covering materials, of course, must be adequate for full advantage to be taken of this method. Saving on covering is to lose on the efficiency of the protection afforded.

FOOD

MILK AND DAIRIES

Number of registered dairies in the District - 16

Licences issued for designated milk during the year as follows:-

	<u>"T.T."</u>	<u>"Pasteurised"</u>	<u>"Sterilised"</u>
Dealer's Licences	15	14	-
Supplementary	9	9	1

No action was necessary under Section 20 (Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949)

Number of premises registered under Section 14 - Food and Drugs, Act, 1936

(1) Ice Cream - Manufacture	- Nil
Storage or Sale only	- 68
(2) Sausages, preserved food etc.	- 7

Inspections made to food premises - 77

Premises found to be unsatisfactory - 7

FOOD CONDEMNATIONS

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Minced Beef Loaf	12 ozs.
Danish Pork Luncheon Meat	4 lbs.
Corned Beef	6 lbs.
Cornish Pilchards	14 ozs.

Method of Disposal of Condemned Food.

Meat: Incinerator.

Other Foods: Incinerator and Refuse Tip.

MEAT INSPECTION

Meat Inspection is only one of the vitally important aspects of the supervision of food which is carried out by the Public Health Inspectors. It is, however, unfortunate that this particular activity should give rise to a considerable amount of personal hardship to many Inspectors, involving as it often does visits to slaughter houses in the early hours of the morning, late at night or even on Sundays as well as during normal working hours. It is felt that more co-operation by the trade as a whole would be to the benefit of all concerned.

MEAT INSPECTIONCarcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	766	58	98	973	3164	-
Number inspected	766	58	98	973	3164	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole Carcasses condemned	3	4	1	1	3	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	79	28	5	19	641	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis and cysticerci	10.7	55.2	6.1	2.0	20.35	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	1	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	39	14	-	-	184	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	5.4	25.9	-	-	5.8	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total inspections for four years = 14,742						
<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>			
3023	2628	4032	5059			

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.)

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	14	1	-	-
Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	59	14	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	12	5	-	-
Total:	85	20	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				In which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (s.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (s.7)-					
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	1	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	4	4	-	-	-
Total:	5	5	-	1	-

RADIATION HAZARDS

Much publicity has been given recently to the danger of radiation to the health of the present and future generation. Unfortunately the problem, not by any means a simple one at the best of times, has taken on political and emotional angles which are far from helping to clarify the situation.

A few short statements about radiation may help to clarify the position in a general way:

Radioactivity is a normal property of certain types of minerals of fairly wide distribution, a certain amount of radiation also arrives as Cosmic Rays in much the same manner as our sun light from extra terrestrial sources. Radioactivity can however, be made artificially by X ray type of machines or by concentrating the active portions of radioactive minerals.

Once a substance becomes radioactive it retains this characteristic for a longer or shorter period depending on the type of substance. All such materials however, are losing their radioactivity at a definite rate which cannot in any way be altered.

No matter how produced, radiation can cause changes in the cells of the body, in some tissues more than others, and the amount of effect is roughly in proportion to the amount of radiation which the body receives. Before the employment of nuclear energy became practical, the amount of radioactivity which was received by the general mass of the population was very far below the level of danger. The recent increase in radiation due to the use of radioactive materials in industry, the testing of nuclear weapons and the increasing use of X rays has increased the dose to which the population is exposed, but the general level of radiation is still far below that which can produce any danger.

It is generally agreed that there is a maximum amount of radiation which a human being can accept without damage even when spread over a whole lifetime. This maximum has been progressively lowered in recent years with increasing knowledge of long term hazards. The question of the remote genetic effects is one about which very little is known. It is however a fact that germinal tissue is peculiarly sensitive to radiation and the portion most affected is that which carries the inherited characteristics of the species, hence the production of mutations.

From the practical point of view, what are the dangers at present? In endeavouring to answer this question I will confine myself to considering the dangers as they are, and not in any hypothetical state of war.

(a) Nuclear Power stations which are being erected up and down the country to furnish electric power from nuclear sources do not appear to entail any more danger than power stations of the well known conventional type. There does however, seem to be a greater possible hazard from the establishments which manufacture the nuclear fuel. The Atomic Energy Authority which is responsible in this case, has a most elaborate safety organisation to prevent harm to the public.

(b) Industrial use of radioactive substances is increasing rapidly, but fortunately the type of substance used is usually one in which the radio-activity is short lived and loses its potential for danger in a few days or weeks. There are at present two main industrial uses for these materials. Luminising of clocks, watches and instruments and the use of Tracer Substances. With the passage of time no doubt the list will be added to. Apart from the dangers to the person using the radioactive material, the main danger to the community lies in the radioactive waste material, the disposal of which is a problem of the first order.

(c) Much has been talked about the "Fall Out" from nuclear weapon tests. These produce a fine radioactive dust which can remain suspended in the atmosphere for lengthy periods, and can produce contamination over wide areas. The increase in activity in the atmosphere which can be attributed to the tests which have already been carried out, although measurable, is very small and does not appear dangerous. If however, test explosions are going to take place regularly over a period of years, the position might become more serious. It must be remembered that certain of the radioactive products of the explosions, especially Strontium 90, are taken up by and stored in the body.

(d) X rays have been in use for some sixty years and the dangers associated with them have been well appreciated. The tendency however, to use X rays for non essential purposes is growing, and it has recently been stated that the contribution made by X rays to the total sum of radiation received by the population is at present level significant, although not calculated to cause danger.

In writing the above I have tried to give a clear picture of the problem as I see it. If there is no undue increase in the radioactivity to which the population is subjected there seems to be little hazard as we are still well below the danger level. Some increase must however, be inevitable and my feeling is that it should be kept to the lowest level possible both for its immediate and even more for its long term effects.

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